

Message Text

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71

ACTION MMO-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 ABF-01 PER-03 COME-00 SS-15

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----- 069007

R 050915Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0577

UNCLAS DACCA 2306

E.O. 11652 : N/A

TAGS : BEXP, AMGT, APER, BG

SUBJECT : REPROGRAMMING OF E/C POSITIONS: DACCA

REF : STATE 101921

1. THIS POST DOES NOT RECOMMEND ANY CHANGE IN THE PRESENT STAFFING PATTERN OF ITS ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION.

2. SINCE THE ELIMINATION OF ONE FULL-TIME E/C OFFICER POSITION IN 1974, THE E/C SECTION IN DACCA HAS CONSISTED OF ONE FSO-3, CHIEF OF SECTION: ONE PART-TIME JUNIOR OFFICER, WHO REGULARLY DEVOTES TWO HALF-DAYS WEEKLY, PLUS ADDITIONAL TIME AS CIRCUMSTANCES MAY REQUIRE, TO CONSULAR WORK; ONE FSS-8; AND ONE FSL COMMERCIAL ADVISOR, ONE FSL COMMERCIAL ASSISTANT, AND ONE FSL CLERK-TYPIST.

3. THIS POST WAS INSPECTED IN MID-1974 AND IS SCHEDULED FOR INSPECTION IN JUNE THIS YEAR. IN 1974, THE INSPECTORS MADE NO RECOMMENDATION AFFECTING THE NUMBER OF E/C POSITIONS, BUT DID RECOMMEND THE AMBASSADOR REASSESS THE ORGANIZATION OF THE EMBASSY, INCLUDING COMBINING THE POLITICAL AND E/C SECTIONS TO QTE IMPROVE EFFICIENCY UNQTE. THE REASSESSMENT CONCLUDED THAT THE TWO SECTIONS REMAIN SEPARATE.

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4. WHILE THE COMMERCIAL FUNCTIONS AT DACCA ARE LIM-

TED BY THE MODEST SIZE OF THE MARKET HERE, THERE IS A REGULAR FLOW OF COMMERCIAL WORK (58 WTDRS, 2 ADS, 62 TO'S WERE PREPARED IN 1975), WHICH IS HANDLED LARGELY BY THE FSL'S. USG AND PRIVATE BUSINESS CLAIMS AGAINST THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT, TOGETHER WITH RELATIONS WITH THE DOZEN US FIRMS ESTABLISHED IN BANGLADESH (INCLUDING OIL EXPLORATION FIRMS) RECEIVE CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION FROM THE FSO'S. THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE' AND NUMEROUS AID OFFICERS, INCLUDING THE MISSION DIRECTOR, HAVE REGULARLY BEEN HELPFUL MEETING WITH, AND IN RESPONDING TO INQUIRIES FROM US BUSINESSMEN. NEVERTHELESS, THE GREAT PART OF THIS MODEST WORK-LOAD FALLS TO THE ONE AND ONE-HALF US OFFICER E/C SECTION, AND THE THREE BANGLADESHI EMPLOYEES.

5. WHEN THE FULL RANGE OF ECONOMIC WORK IS ADDED TO THE COMMERCIAL, AND IT IS BORNE IN MIND THAT THE SECOND US OFFICER IS ONE SERVING AT HIS FIRST POST, IT WILL BE READILY AGREED THAT THERE IS NO SCOPE FOR FURTHER STAFF REDUCTIONS. INDEED THE WORKLOAD IS INCREASING SLOWLY AS BANGLADESH, INDEPENDENT ONLY SINCE DECEMBER, 1971 AND A UN MEMBER ONLY SINCE 1974, INCREASES THE RANGE OF ITS ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND ACTIVITIES.
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